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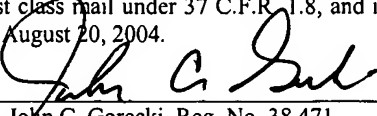
**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Alfredo Herrera  
Serial No.: 101771,596  
Filed: February 4, 2004  
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR AUTOMATING THE DESIGN OF PROGRAMMABLE LOGIC DEVICES

Examiner: unknown  
Art Unit: 2825  
Attorney Docket No.: 16550ROUS01U

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this document, along with any other papers referred to as being attached or enclosed, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.8, and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 20, 2004.

  
John C. Gorecki, Reg. No. 38,471

Commissioner for Patents  
Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend this application as follows:

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION** are reflected beginning on page 2 of this paper;

**AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT** are reflected beginning on page 10 of this paper;

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 11 of this paper.

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS** begin on page 14 of this paper.

**APPENDIX A** containing a marked up version of the amended portions of the specification is attached hereto starting at page 15 of this paper;

**APPENDIX B** containing a marked-up version of the original abstract is attached hereto starting at page 23 of this paper.